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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Australia's Popular Roots-Pop Band Comes to SLO

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA - A favorite opening act for Bob Dylan and the first Australian band to perform at both the prestigious New Orleans Jazz and Newport Folk Festivals, the spirited Waifs bring their roots-pop sound to the Cal Poly Theatre at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003.

"The country/honky-tonk, folk/rock trio from Australia possesses sheer instrumental virtuosity. Whether it's acoustic guitar, mandolin, or dobro, The Waifs' performances on these strummed instruments are a delight." (Associated Press)

Armed with acoustic guitars, precise harmonies, a blues harp, and songs about life on the road and the lure of dreams, The Waifs perform as part of Cal Poly Arts' new 2003-04 Season/Director's Choice series.

The Director's Choice series is a new feature of the Cal Poly Arts performing arts season. According to Cal Poly Arts director, Ralph Hoskins, the Series presents emerging artists "that are just too good to pass up."

Hailing from Western Australia, The Waifs formed ten years ago when sisters Donna and Vikki Simpson met guitarist Joshua Cunningham. Each of the band's founding members shares in the songwriting and lead vocal responsibilities.

They released their first album in May, 1996 - "The Waifs Debut Self-Titled Album." Their second original album, the popular "Shelter Me," was released one year later. Their listening audience continued to grow, as evidenced by the huge response to their June, 2000 release, "Sink or Swim."

The release of the band's fourth studio album, "Up All Night," earned The Waifs critical acclaim and the album received four star reviews in Mojoes, Uncut, and Q Magazine. They resumed their touring schedule, with dates throughout Europe, Canada, and the U.S.

The Waifs continue to build a global fan base through compelling performances. After seeing the band live in Australia, songwriting legend Bob Dylan personally asked The Waifs to join him as the opening act on select U.S. dates, including Rhode Island's famed Newport Folk Festival.

Following that performance, the front cover of the Newport Rhode Island Daily News heralded, "This energetic Australian group wowed the crowd with their tight harmonies, creative song-writing, and strong harmonica lifts. If the Festival is any indication, The Waifs are on the cusp of something bigger."

Tickets for the performance are \$24 & 28, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office.

Ticket Office hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call (805) 756-2787; to order by fax: (805) 756-6088.

This performance is sponsored by Sands Suites & Motel. Co-sponsored by KCBX FM 90.1.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

-- 30 --

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